

both sides. Trial attorneys were never happy with it. Now some of the manufacturing industry, particularly a certain segment of it, interested in Senator Goodrich's amendments, aren't happy with it either. I think I have found the right place. I think I have restricted those inappropriate suits and still provided some protection to those consumers that have some legitimate concerns about defective products and I do not wish to limit their right to sue by limiting the statute of limitations further on negligence suits. The time is okay. The time is right, as a matter of fact, to move ahead with the passage of this bill. We need to take action state by state. We are not going to get action out of Washington on this. We are dealing with a body that as certainly you know is not very responsive to the needs of the citizens at this point. I am going to go along with you on that study, Senator Cullan, after the bill is enacted. We need further changes. We need to find some way of doing perhaps what the Kansas Senate bill attempted to do in Kansas this year. The legislation which was defeated in other states was much broader than this, much more punitive in its impact. I wouldn't introduce legislation like that. This is a very different product. It deserves to be passed this year. I oppose the bracketing motion.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I, too, oppose the bracketing of this bill. This is something that needs attention now. We can't afford to wait. There has been too much said, I think, about the fact that it isn't going to guarantee that insurance rates will be lowered. As has been said before, no, but I guess I would be very satisfied if we just keep them where they are and I think most of the manufacturers, because if we don't do something, what is going to happen next year. I gave you the example of J. A. Baldwin Manufacturing from twenty thousand dollars to eighty-eight thousand dollars in one year. What could be next year? Do you want to raise it four times that to three hundred and twenty-five thousand possibly? So I think most people, even though they are too high now, would even be satisfied to leave them the same. I just can't see the reason for not looking this right straight in the eye and let's do something about it. So, please, let's don't bracket this. Let's finish up and get it moving.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think that Senator Cullan has come up with a very good solution to the problem, to bracket it, to study and come up with some real solutions to the problem we have next year. The insurance companies seem to not have the information as to the payoffs and the take in the State of Nebraska. The professional statisticians of the state cannot get us the information, I understand, as to what they are paying off in the State of Nebraska and what they are taking in which is the real crux of the problem. I have no questions that our Nebraska courts are not going wild on awards to consumers and I see no real impetus to pass a bill to restrict this consumer in the State of Nebraska with our conservative court system, to restrict it in any way, as long as our courts operate in a conservative manner as they have in this state.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Burrows, will you please stick to